Year	Category 'C'	Category 'D'
2004-05 (as on 31.3.05)	134515	41166
2005-06 (as on 31.3.06)	129940	35731
2006-07 (as on 31.3.07)	123358	49958
2007-08*	127745	52196

* NOTE:— Figures for the year 2007-08 are as on 29.2.08 and are provisional.

(b) to (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement dated 19.12.1983 in Writ Petition No. 6804-05 opined that Government would take steps to absorb all the commission bearers and vendors progressively as members in permanent Railway service.

Effects of climatic change

†3510. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of having trained personnel at the level of villages all over the country is under consideration to save the agriculture from the effects of climatic change;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the system of having co-ordination by them with various Ministries and the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No such scheme is under consideration of the Government. However, ICAR initiated a Network Project on impact, adaptation and vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change. The Government also undertakes several measures to create awareness about environmental issues which include, *inter alia,* the following:

(i) National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) is being implemented with the objective of creating environmental awareness at the national level through designated Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) appointed for specific States/ Regions of the country.

(ii) Workshops/conferences/seminars are organized with the support from the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the issue of environment and climate change and publications are brought out.

(iii) Eco-clubs are set up with the Central assistance in schools through out the country.

(iv) A project for Strengthening of Environmental Education in School System (STRESS) is being implemented.

(v) Various events are organized/observed for creating awareness regarding preservation and conservation of the environment *e.g.* World Environment Day, Earth Day, Ozone Day etc.

(c) At the national level, the integration of climate change in national development is guided by the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, which includes representation of key Ministries, as well as experts, and representatives of industry and of media. The

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Council provides overall strategic guidance on mainstreaming climate change in development, identifies key intervention priorities, and monitors the implementation of these interventions.

Slow pace of work on Puntamba-Shirdi railway line

†3511. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on Puntamba-Shirdi railway track is going on at very slow speed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to complete this work at the earliest;

(d) by when Puntamba-Shirdi railway track would be completed; and

(e) by when railway facility would be made available on this track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) the work is affected due to delay in providing land by the State Government and slow progress of construction due to increase in royalty on earthwork and resistance of local people in quarrying moorum.

(c) Matter of providing land is being pursued with the State Government. The royalty issue has also been taken up with State Government.

(d) and (e) The work is expected to be completed and commissioned by December, 2008.

Rail accident near Moga in Punjab

3512. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in December last, there was serious accident near Moga in Punjab involving a school bus and a running passenger train;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the number of persons who lost their lives and were seriously injured in the mishap; and

(c) the findings of the statutory inquiry conducted and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 14.12.2007 at 08.20 hrs., a mini bus No. PB 29 E 9482 struck against 4629 Up Ludhiana-Firozpur Sutlej Express at Manned Engineering Level Crossing Gate No. 40-C between Jagraon and Ajitwal railway stations on Ferozpur Division of Northern Railway. This accident resulted in the death of 16 persons, grievous injuries to 8 persons and 6 persons suffered simple injuries.

(c) The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle, who is holding statutory inquiry into this accident has submitted his Preliminary Report. As per the provisional findings given in the Preliminary Report, the above accident occurred because the gateman on duty opened the Gate without taking permission from Assistant Station Master of Ajitwal Station and did not protect the railway track before opening the gate. The Loco Pilot of the train did not reduce the speed of the train despite the heavy fog and the poor visibility and he and his Assistant Loco Pilot did not blow the horn continuously from the whistle board till the level crossing gate. The Gateman was arrested by Police and has been placed under suspension by

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi